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SUBJECT: DRC/INDIA: UK WORKS TO KEEP INDIAN PEACEKEEPERS IN PLACE

REF: STATE 18863

(C) The UK Government is actively encouraging Congolese officials to work with the Government of India on ensuring that Indian peacekeepers continue their participation in MONUC, according to Foreign Office Great Lakes Team Head Dave Hall and Cabinet Office Senior Policy Advisor Anna French. Hall said the British Ambassador in Kinshasa had already spoken with the Congolese Foreign Minister, and Hall understands either President Kabila or another senior DRC official will talk to the Government of India directly. French said Prime Minister Brown's Foreign Policy Advisor Simon MacDonald is prepared to call his Indian counterpart if the Congolese representations do not convince the Indians to stay in MONUC. Referring to UK Prime Minister Brown's personal decision in December 2008 to reverse the UK position in favor of MONUC expansion, French noted that Brown has "personally invested a lot in MONUC" and does not want to see it fail.

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